AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method for preventing or treating male erectile dysfunction ~~or female sexual arousal disorder~~, which method comprises administering to a male mammal for whom such prevention or treatment is needed or desirable, an effective amount of

basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) protein,

thereby preventing or treating said male erectile dysfunction ~~or female sexual arousal disorder~~ in said mammal.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human and the bFGF protein is of human origin.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the bFGF protein is administered by intracavernous injection, subcutaneous injection, intravenous injection, intramuscular injection, intradermal injection, or topical administration.

6-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the bFGF protein is administered via a liposome.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, for preventing or treating male erectile dysfunction wherein the male erectile dysfunction is erectile dysfunction induced by or secondary to nerve dysfunction, arterial insufficiency, venous leakage, hormonal insufficiency, drug use, surgery, chemotherapy or radiation.

12. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~for preventing or treating female sexual arousal disorder wherein the female sexual arousal disorder is sexual dysfunction induced by or secondary to nerve dysfunction, arterial insufficiency, hormonal insufficiency, drug use, surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation~~ wherein the bFGF protein is administered by intracavernous injection.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 1**[[**2**]]**, wherein ~~the bFGF or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, or a nucleic acid encoding said bFGF or functional derivative or fragment thereof, or an agent that enhances production and/or said sexual arousal-stimulating function of said bFGF, protein is administered in an amount sufficient to improve blood flow and regenerate nerve and smooth muscle in the clitoris and vaginal wall~~ the dysfunction is induced by hypercholesterolemia or induced by a cavernous nerve injury.

14. (currently amended): The method of claim 1**[[**3**]]**, wherein ~~the bFGF protein is administered in a cream or via injection to the clitoris and vaginal wall of the patient~~ the male erectile dysfunction is preventable or treatable by increasing neovascularization and the administration of bFGF causes neovascularization thereby preventing or treating the male erectile dysfunction.

15. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 14, wherein the bFGF protein is administered by intracavernous injection.

16-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the bFGF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, which further comprises administering an effective amount of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) protein.

24. (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the VEGF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, which further comprises administering an effective amount of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) protein.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the BDNF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

27. (previously presented): The method of claim 23, which further comprises administering an effective amount of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) protein.

28. (previously presented: The method of claim 27, wherein the BDNF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

29. (new): A method for preventing or treating male erectile dysfunction that is preventable or treatable by increasing neovascularization, which method comprises

administering to a male mammal for whom such prevention or treatment is needed or desirable, an effective amount of basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) protein,

wherein the administration of bFGF causes neovascularization resulting in the prevention or treatment of the male erectile dysfunction in the mammal, and wherein the bFGF is administered by intracavernous injection.

30. (new): The method of claim 29, wherein the bFGF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

31. (new): The method of claim 29, which further comprises administering an effective amount of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) protein.

32. (new): The method of claim 31, wherein the VEGF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

33. (new): The method of claim 29, which further comprises administering an effective amount of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) protein.

34. (new): The method of claim 33, wherein the BDNF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

35. (new): The method of claim 31, which further comprises administering an effective amount of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) protein.

36. (new): The method of claim 35, wherein the BDNF protein is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

37. (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the bFGF is in the form of a pharmaceutical composition.

38. (new): The method of claim 37, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

39. (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the bFGF protein is administered via a microsphere.